rehabilitation/rebuilding every year chargeable to Railway Annual Works Programme. A sum of Rs. 209 crores (Rs. 143 crores out of Special Railway Safety Fund and Rs. 66 crores out of Depreciation Reserve Fund) has been allotted for rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges during the year 2002-2003. Necessary staff for maintenance and operation is available.

Vacancies of Loco Staff in SER

1164. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 1250 posts of loco running staff are vacant in South Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the existing staff is required to put extra hours of work, leading to fatigue, bearing an adverse impact on the safety of passengers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. As on 1.11.2002 there were 435 vacancies in the posts of loco running staff on South Eastern Railway. This amounts to 4.21 percent of the cadre. The leave reserve provided in the Drivers' category is 30% which is more than sufficient to take care of these 4.21 percent vacancies in this cadre.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, norms provide for working by the crew beyond the limits prescribed in exceptional exigencies of accidents, floods, agitations, equipment failures, etc., only.

Rail Food-over Bridge at Warangal

1165. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a second railway booking counter and a foot-over bridge at Warangal Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the allocation made therefor and by when the work would be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.